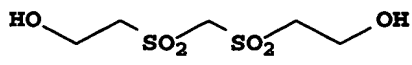


Amendments to the Claims:

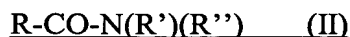
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process comprising reacting an ~~multi~~
(~~primary alcohol-sulfone~~) compound represented by the formula:



with a reducing agent and a halogenating agent in the presence of a solvent that does not appreciably react with the halogenating agent and in the presence of an amide compound present in an amount of less than 1 part amide per part of ~~multi~~ (~~primary alcohol sulfone~~) to form a ~~multi~~ (~~primary~~ halosulfone), wherein the amide compound is represented by the following formula (II):



wherein R, R', and R'' groups are branched, unbranched or cyclic alkyl groups or substituted or unsubstituted aryl groups;

and then, without isolating the halosulfone, converting the halosulfone into a vinylsulfone by contact with a base selected from the alkali metal carbonates, bicarbonates, formates, acetates, and propionates in the presence of a solvent and water.

2.-5. Canceled

6. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the halogenating agent is a chlorinating or brominating agent.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the halogenating agent is thionyl bromide or thionyl chloride.

8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the halogenating agent is thionyl chloride.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The process of claim 9 1 wherein R is a branched or unbranched alkyl group, aromatic group, or hydrogen.

11. (Currently amended) The process of claim 9 1 wherein R is hydrogen, methyl or an aromatic group.

12. (Currently amended) The process of claim 9 1 wherein R' and R'' are branched or unbranched alkyl groups or an aryl group.

13. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the amide is present in an amount less than 1.0 part amide per part of the ~~multi~~-alcoholsulfone.

14. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the amide is present in an amount less than 0.5 parts amide per part of the ~~multi~~-alcoholsulfone.

15. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the amide is present in an amount 0.1 to 0.4 parts amide per part of the ~~multi~~-alcoholsulfone

16. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the solvent in the halosulfone forming step is one that doesn't appreciably react with the halogenating reagents.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~17~~ 1 wherein the solvent in the converting step is selected from acetone, heptane, ethyl acetate and an amide containing solvent.

20. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 including the preliminary step of extracting the ~~multi~~ (primary alcohol) sulfone from an aqueous reaction mixture.